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VIRGINIA LAW REGISTER.

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VOLUME VII begins with this number.

WE shall be glad to publish in our June number, thoughtful articles on the subject of the powers and duties of the approaching Constitutional Convention in this State. We have already in hand for that purpose an excellent paper by a leading lawyer of the State, who is a prospective member of the Convention. The contributions suggested may be in the shape of brief communications on single points, or more elaborate discussions.

WE are indebted to the courtesy of Col. E. E. Stickley, of the Woodstock (Va.) bar, for an account of a curiosity in the form of a will written on a slate, and recently admitted to probate in Shenandoah county.

The instrument consisted of but a few lines, wholly in the handwriting of the testator, and disposed of a small estate estimated at about five hundred dollars.

After having copied the instrument in the will-book, the clerk filed the slate containing the original writing, just as in the case of a will written on paper or parchment.

We know of no reported case where the validity of such a will was drawn in question, though there are numerous cases sustaining the validity of wills written or signed in lead pencil, where the necessary finality of testamentary intent appeared. *Appeal of Knox* (Pa.), 18 Atl. 1021; *Philbrick v. Spangler*, 15 La. Ann. 46; 1 Underhill on Wills, 183.

THE Constitutional Convention soon to assemble in this State is naturally attracting much public interest. The body will be largely made up of lawyers, among whom are some of the leading members of the profession, and the gathering will be a notable one in other respects.

The spectacle of a body of law-makers with nothing else to do, and

doing nothing else, but attending to interests of the Commonwealth at large, will be particularly interesting to those familiar with the proceedings of the legislature. After the selection of the few officers needed for the purposes of the Convention itself, there will be no candidates for office to be considered, and hence no time wasted in caucusing over party nominees. Those members with legislative experience will scarcely feel at home in such a body of workers, all engaged in serving the good of the whole State, regardless of county lines and magisterial districts. Bills to make Goose Creek a lawful fence—to relieve Hiram Higgins of a fine lawfully imposed—to incorporate the Hanging Rock Huckleberry Club—to abolish demurrers to rickety pleadings in pending suits—will be conspicuous by their absence. We believe that the body will be a wise and conservative one, and that the constitution which it shall propose to the people will reflect credit upon its framers, and redound to the honor and glory of the Commonwealth.